

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 PARIS 18806 01 OF 02 271508Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----098974 271521Z /53
R 271458Z JUN 77
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4802
INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

S E C R E T SECTION 01 OF 02 PARIS 18806

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: TECH, MNUC, ENRG, PK, FR
SUBJECT: FRENCH REPROCESSING PLANT FOR PAKISTAN:
STATUS AND FUTURE ACTION

REF: (A) STATE 146730; (B) PARIS 03588; (C) PARIS 10844
(D) PARIS 11888; (E) PARIS 18528

1. SUMMARY. THE NUCLEONICS WEEK ARTICLE OF JUNE 9 ON THE STATUS OF THE FRENCH REPROCESSING PLANT IN PAKISTAN IS REASONABLY CORRECT. THE IMPROVING SITUATION IN PAKISTAN AND THE OCTOBER 7 ELECTIONS MAY WELL PUSH FRANCE SOON TO APPROVE ITS REMAINING CONTRACTS AND TRAINING PROGRAM. END SUMMARY.

2. REFTEL A REFERS TO JUNE 9 NUCLEONICS WEEK ARTICLE ON THE REPROCESSING PLANT. THE ARTICLE WAS WRITTEN BY THE NUCLEONICS WEEK REPORTER STATIONED IN PARIS WHO SPOKE TO A NUMBER OF PEOPLE AND THEN PUT TOGETHER WHAT HE CONSIDERED TO BE A FACTUAL, CONSERVATIVE STORY ON THE CURRENT SITUATION. HIS STORY IS ONE OF THE MORE ACCURATE PUBLIC ACCOUNTS OF WHERE THINGS STAND.

3. PARIS 03588 OF FEBRUARY 4, 1977, BRIEFLY REVIEWED
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THE STATUS OF BLUEPRINTS AND INITIAL CONSTRUCTION: BLUEPRINTS HAD BEEN SHIPPED; A NORMAL COMPONENT OF AN A&E SERVICE CONTRACT IS TO SUPPLY TECHNICIANS TO ADVISE THE OWNER AND HIS CONSTRUCTION CONTRACTORS; THE TRANSFER OF BLUEPRINTS AND PEOPLE BEGAN OFFICIALLY IN MAY, 1976. THE FRENCH ALSO ADVISED US AT THAT TIME THAT THE CONTRACTS FOR MAJOR PIECES OF EQUIPMENT

(E.G., THE FUEL ROD CUTTING MACHINE) WOULD BE READY FOR SIGNING IN THREE TO FOUR WEEKS (PRELIMINARY DRAWING HAVING BEEN SHIPPED TO SUPPORT ADEQUATE PROPOSALS).

4. PARIS 10844 OF APRIL 14, 1977, NOTED THAT THE GOF WAS WITHHOLDING APPROVAL OF FINANCING ARRANGEMENTS FOR TWO MAJOR PIECES OF EQUIPMENT AND OF A PROPOSED TRAINING PROGRAM.

5. BY APRIL 22, THE GOF AGREED TO GIVE US AT LEAST TWO WEEKS NOTICE BEFORE ACTING ON THE TWO PENDING FINANCING ARRANGEMENTS REQUESTS AND THE TRAINING REQUEST (SEE PARIS 11888). ON JUNE 22, MFA DIRECTOR OF NUCLEAR AFFAIRS LOUET ADVISED EMBOFF THAT THIS SITUATION REMAINS - WE WILL BE GIVEN AT LEAST TWO WEEKS NOTICE. BUT LOUET QUICKLY ADDED THAT IN HIS OPINION THE IMPROVING CONDITIONS IN PAKISTAN AND THE OCTOBER ELECTIONS WOULD SOON CAUSE THE GOP TO PRESS THE GOF FOR ACTION ON THE CONTRACTS AND TRAINING PROGRAM AND THE GOF WOULD HAVE NO ACCEPTABLE ALTERNATIVE TO APPROVING THEM.

6. RECENT DISCUSSIONS WITH THE POLITICAL SIDE OF THE

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QUAI (SEE PARIS 18528) INDICATE THAT THE FRENCH THINK THAT IF THE AGREEMENT BETWEEN BHUTTO AND THE PNA HOLDS AND PAKISTAN MOVES IN AN ORDERLY FASHION TOWARD ELECTIONS OCTOBER 7, IT WILL BE DIFFICULT FOR THE GOF NOT TO MOVE AHEAD WITH ITS EXISTING AGREEMENTS. AS NOTED BY ISLAMABAD, THE REPROCESSING PLANT WILL PROBABLY CONTINUE TO BE AN ISSUE IN THE ELECTIONS, AND BHUTTO WILL CONTINUE TO PRESS THE GOF ON THE MATTER IN ORDER TO COUNTER OPPOSITION ARGUMENTS THAT IT IS HIS QUESTIONABLE GOOD FAITH WHICH INSPIRES FRENCH RELUCTANCE AND US OPPOSITION TO THE REPROCESSING PLANT.

7. IN PREPARING FOR NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE FRENCH ON THIS AND OTHER NUCLEAR SUBJECTS, WE SHOULD BE AWARE THAT OUR DISCUSSIONS MAY BE LEAKED AND COME TO THE ATTENTION OF THE PAKISTAN GOVERNMENT WHICH MAY CHOOSE TO INTRODUCE THEM AS AN ISSUE IN THE ELECTIONS. FROM THE POINT OF VIEW OF TIMING OF OUR ACTIONS, WE COULD CONSIDER LETTING THE FRENCH COME TO THEIR OWN CONCLUSION ON THE STABILITY OF PAKISTAN. THE GOF MAY NOT HAVE TO ACT ON THE PENDING CONTRACTS UNTIL AFTER THE OCTOBER 7 ELECTIONS. WE DO NOT THINK THAT THE FRENCH APPRAISAL OF THE PAKISTAN SITUATION WILL BE

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MARKEDLY DIFFERENT FROM OUR OWN.

8. THE IMMINENT BILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN OURSELVES AND THE FRENCH WILL CERTAINLY INCLUDE THIS SUBJECT. IT IS OUR OPINION THAT THE GOF WILL NOT AGREE TO STOP ITS PARTICIPATION IN THE PROJECT. FRANCE HAS MADE TOO MUCH PUBLICALLY OF ITS UNYIELDING COMMITMENT TO EXISTING NUCLEAR CONTRACTS AND IS USING THIS DEMONSTRATED ASPECT IN ITS SALES EFFORTS ELSEWHERE ON NUCLEAR REACTORS WITH SOME APPARENT SUCCESS. ALSO, FRENCH OFFICIALS ARE OF THE OPINION THAT PAKISTAN HAS ENOUGH TO MAKE THE PLANT WORK AT SOME TIME AND TO SOME DEGREE AND WOULD THEREFORE SEE NO BENEFIT TO STOPPING ITS OWN PARTICIPATION.

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Message Attributes

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Sent Date: 27-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
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Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Drafter: n/a
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Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
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Secure: OPEN
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TAGS: TECH, MNUC, ENRG, PK, FR
To: STATE
Type: TE
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Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
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